



HOW FIVE GROWN . . . Nine-month-old Bryan Trull, son of Mrs. Martha Trull (right), is interested in the amount of weight he has gained in the past few weeks, as Public Health Nurse Janice Hopkins adjusts the scales. Bryan and other youngsters can get checked at the Torrance Health Center and their mothers can get advice on how best to take care of them.

'Cadillac' Debut Set for Jan. 24

Bernice McMahon, who won the Manhattan Players best actress award for 1956, will be presented in the leading role in "The Solid Gold Cadillac" when it opens for a three week end run in the Players' Theater, 526 S. Irena, Redondo on Jan. 24.

Miss McMahon, who also won the best character actress award at the 1956 Pacific Coast Tournament as a representative of Chapel Players, will

portray the part of the woman who scandalized a nation, and sent a famous senator scurrying home when the curtain goes up on the first production of the group this year.

Sharing the spotlight with her will be George Davenny, who has had a vast experience in theater presentations, and some newcomers, Denton Wable, Bruce Wilson, Carl Rogers, and Dorothy Bushell. Wilson and Rogers have been active

in Hampton Players productions while Mrs. Bushell has been associated with area musical productions.

Director of the production is Dick Miller, who played "Doc" in "Come Back Little Sheba," and has been associated with other drama events for several years.

Reservations for any performance during the three week run can be made by calling FR 4-1690.

Grass Fire May Have Started From Cigarette

Two men seen parked in a car may have started a grass fire which burned a 100 by 150 foot area at 3909 W. 174th St. late Wednesday, the Torrance Fire Department reported.

Public Health Nurses Treat, Prevent Ills

Among Torrance's growing population are many persons who find that the cost of settling in a new home has left them financially pinched. These new residents include many women who are about to produce other small Torrance citizens.

Because they are financially embarrassed, many of these new mothers may neglect themselves and, incidentally, the baby. They may not realize that there is an agency which can help them prepare for Junior's arrival and for caring for him when he is born.

This, however, is only one of the services offered by the Public Health Nurses of the Los Angeles County Health Department's Torrance center.

Many Duties
This small band of women, headed by Miss Anita Terrill, handles a variety of little-known duties for the public, ranging from actual care of the public to educating them to take care of themselves. One of their most important duties is attempting to prevent disease, instead of curing it after it occurs.

Information is one of these ladies' main duties, and the department keeps a qualified person close to the phone to answer any questions the public may have—from how to put on Junior's diapers to what to do for an ailing goat. (This call was referred to a veterinarian.)

Services Told
During the last three months of 1956, the Public Health Nurses' duties included:

1. Helping doctors in examining and immunizing 10,768 persons.

2. Conferring with 1,437 mothers of children under two on the health of their youngsters and aiding them with other problems.

3. Gave pre-natal aid to 469 prospective mothers.

4. Made 472 calls to homes to help mothers with their children.

5. Made 644 calls to homes where an occupant had some communicable disease—polio, hepatitis, measles, scarlet fever, typhoid, and various other diseases.

Tuberculosis Cases
Interviewed and counseled 473 persons who had tuberculosis and their families.

7. Interviewed 110 persons in venereal disease clinics and checked to locate sources of infection.

These are some of the duties performed by the nine public health nurses and three clinic nurses at the Torrance Health Center. All public health nurses receive a year's training in the field before they get their degrees.

Much of the work of these nurses is involved with mothers and babies, both before and after they are born. Babies can be examined at the local center and any signs of trouble can be reported at once. Mothers, too, can get advice on what their child needs and what she herself needs.

Budget Studied
Aside from problems involving health, the nurses also help the mother plan her baby budget to include the things Junior absolutely needs. They offer demonstrations of how to bathe Junior and care for his other needs most efficiently.

Child health conferences are held in several parts of the health district, including Gardena, Lawndale, North Redondo, and at the Torrance center, 2500 W. Carson St.

The nurses get lists of all mothers who have babies at Harbor General Hospital and invite these women to the conferences at the center. In many cases, they find that the mother had no pre-natal care and was not aware that it was available.

Preparing both mother and father for parenthood are also important parts of the nurses' duties. In addition to conferences with expectant mothers, they also hold classes for prospective parents. These include both films and talks to help both father and mother understand what will happen.

Mental Health Stressed
The mental aspects of the new arrival, as well as strictly physical, are explained. These classes include persons referred by private physicians.

In treating the mothers and babies, the nurses check to see that they are financially in need—not necessarily destitute, but perhaps overburdened with the bills of moving into a new community.

In communicable disease work, the public health nurses perform important work in tuberculosis control and last year checked 472 persons. The nurses help to interpret the findings and recommendations of the doctors both to the tuberculosis patient and his family and to help them understand what is necessary for treatment.

During the last three months, the nurses interviewed 148 persons in the venereal disease clinic, checking all cases reported in the district. An important part of this work is trying to locate all the sources of infection.

In the health officers' clinic, the nurses helped doctors in examination and immunizing 10,768 persons during the last three months of the year.

The nurses made some 644 trips to victims of all types of communicable disease—polio, measles, hepatitis, scarlet fever, salmonella, typhoid fever, and internal disorders of vari-

ous types. They treated and counseled the persons. Last year, they even found one case of leprosy.

Miss Terrill emphasized that the public health nurses, all of whom had one year's training in such work before being accredited, believe that their work involves not only immediate problems, but mental health and education over a long period of time. Their work is as much preventative in nature as curative, she said.

25TH STATE
Arkansas was the 25th state to be admitted to the Union.

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- MIDNIGHT
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